

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/650,501

Examiner

Gregory J. Vaughn

Applicant(s)

BATES ET AL.

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 4/19/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8 and 26-36.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE AND EXAMINERS AMENDMENT

Application History

1. This action is responsive to the application amendment, application amendment filed on 4/19/2004.
2. Applicant has amended the specification in response to the objections cited by the examiner in the *Drawings* and *Specification* sections of the previous Office Action (dated 1/16/2004). Applicant's amendment has addressed all objections previously made and therefore, in view of this amendment, objections to the drawings and specification are withdrawn.
3. Applicant's amendment has cancelled claims 2 and 9-25, added claims 26-36, and amended claim 1.
4. The rejections of claims 1, and 3-8 made under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Borman et al. (US Patent 6,606,654) as recited in the previous Office Action (dated 1/16/2004) has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
5. Claims 1, 3-8 and 26-36 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 28 are independent claims.

Examiner's Amendment

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
7. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roy W. Truelson (Attorney of Record) on 6/23/2004.
8. Claims 1 and 28 of the application have been amended by the examiner as follows:
 1. (Currently Amended): A method of accessing electronic documents, comprising the steps of:
 - displaying a first electronic document to a user using a display screen of a computer system, said first electronic document being retrieved remotely over a network connected to said computer system;
 - storing, in a local storage area of said computer system, link information which is a link only version containing ~~regarding~~ one or more document links embedded in an said first electronic document;
 - at a time subsequent to performing said displaying and storing steps, receiving a user selection selecting the first electronic document for retrieval remotely over said network by the computer system;

in response to said receiving a user selection selecting the first electronic document step, retrieving said link information from said local storage area to display the link information on a said display screen of the computer system, and issuing a request for the first electronic document to a said network connected to the computer system;

in response to displaying said link information receiving a user selection selecting a link of the displayed link information, said link identifying a second electronic document:

in response to receiving a user selection selecting a link, issuing a request for said second electronic document to said networks; and

in response to said issuing a request for the first electronic document step, downloading the first electronic document;

wherein said step of issuing a request for said second electronic document is performed before said step of downloading said first electronic document.

28. (Currently Amended): A computer program product embodied as a plurality of computer readable instructions stored on a storage medium, wherein said computer readable instructions, when executed by a computer system cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

displaying a first electronic document to a user using a display screen of said computer system, said first electronic document being retrieved remotely over a network connected to said computer system;

storing, in a local storage area of said computer system, link information which is a link only version containing ~~regarding~~ one or more document links embedded in an said first electronic document;

at a time subsequent to performing said displaying and storing steps, receiving a user selection selecting the first electronic document for retrieval remotely over said network by the computer system;

in response to said receiving a user selection selecting the first electronic document step, retrieving said link information from said local storage area to display the link information on a said display screen of the computer system, and issuing a request for the first electronic document to a said network connected to the computer system;

in response to displaying said link information, receiving a user selection selecting a link of the displayed link information, said link identifying a second electronic document;

in response to receiving a user selection selecting a link, issuing a request for said second electronic document to said networks; and

in response to said issuing a request for the first electronic document step, receiving the downloaded first electronic document;

wherein said step of issuing a request for said second electronic document is performed before said step of receiving the downloaded first electronic document.

Reasons For Allowance

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
10. **Regarding Independent claim 1**, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor suggests to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made the claimed feature of storing in a local storage area of said computer system, link information which is a link only version containing one or more document links embedded in an said first electronic document or the subsequent limitation wherein said step of issuing a request for said second electronic document is performed before said step of receiving the downloaded first electronic document.
11. **Regarding Independent claim 28**, the claim is directed toward a computer program product of the method of claim 1, and is allowable based upon the same rationale as stated for claim 1 above.
12. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

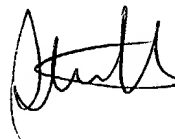
13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (703) 305-4672. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached at (703) 308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory J. Vaughn

June 24, 2004



STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER